This atlas primarily concentrates on the lifesize photographs of sections. These are excellent, with no sign of saw marks. The publishers are also to be congratulated on achieving the colour balance for each print. The authors have gone to great trouble to select the CT and MR images which correspond as near as possible to the cadaveric sections. However, differences in limb length, orientation and level of scan of the limb in both CT and MR images, compared with the sectioned limb, mean that it is not possible to see the precise correspondence between the structures recorded by the different methods. The authors say that the missing information in the scans can be inferred by studying the sections immediately proximal and distal to the level of interest. In practice, this is possible for a reader who is familiar with CT and MR images and who can identify and interpret features within these very different and contrasting imaging modalities. For those less familiar with the appearance of the images, it would have been helpful if the authors had provided a guide to identify the principal features.

The explanatory diagrams identify the major structures in the cadaveric sections. On any one page the diagram of the section is not fully labelled, requiring the reader to examine diagrams on preceding and following pages. This only becomes difficult where unlabelled structures change shape between sections. In general these diagrams are more incomplete than is desirable, and there is almost no attempt to identify and label blood vessels which are clearly visible both in the sections and in scan images, an omission for which there is no explanation. In another example, the several parts of the triceps muscle are readily visible in the different plates but not identified in the diagram. Other irritations, such as identifier lines crossing one another and lines ending at structures not outlined, diminish the quality of this production.

In any atlas, reliance is placed upon the labelled diagram to assist the reader in confirming and/or identifying the structure of interest. The diagrams here fall short in this aspect as, apart from the omissions outlined above, the reader has to work hard to obtain the desired information. This applies not only to the cadaveric sections but more particularly to the CT and MR images. In these scans the different shape of the limbs, and the altered size, position and shape of individual muscles and tendons, make these structures difficult to identify from the diagrams and photographed sections. This atlas does appear to be best suited to those who already have a good knowledge of the anatomy of this region and of its CT and MR scans. In this respect the atlas probably meets the needs of the readership for whom it was primarily aimed: radiologists and specialist surgeons. Nevertheless, it should be of value to anatomists either for their research or in teaching where the selection of relevant sections and correlative scans can be used for the greater appreciation of the 3-dimensional arrangements of structures, particularly at the elbow and wrist. The volume will be of limited value to undergraduate students of anatomy because of its specialised nature.

J. C. BUCKLAND-WRIGHT

Hollinshead's Functional Anatomy of the Limbs and Back. By DAVID B. JENKINS. 6th edition. (Pp. 397; numerous illustrations; £22.) Philadelphia, London: W. B. Saunders. 1991.

I was surprised to find so much in this book that is not directly related to the limbs and back. There are chapters on the basic tissues, organs and organ systems, the head and neck, thorax and abdomen. The argument is presumably that a knowledge of the limbs and back is best acquired in a broader setting.

Dr Jenkins has made numerous changes in the current edition. He has written a glossary, included sections on surface anatomy, added colour to many of the old illustrations and incorporated some new ones. He has provided review questions and tables that summarise the origin, insertion, action and innervation of muscles. The index is good but still does not cover all that it should – e.g. femoral canal, femoral sheath, vinculum. I found some of the accounts of surface anatomy brief and inaccurate – notably the section on the foot. Here he states incorrectly that the talus and calcaneus are the only palpable bones of the tarsus. Certain points of applied anatomy are also contentious. In the chapter on the back, Dr Jenkins has confused root pain with referred pain and made a number of dogmatic statements of dubious merit, e.g. that violent extension of the neck may fold the ligamenta flava so that they injure the spinal cord, although this may occur if there is a narrowed cervical canal.

Although osteology is generally well covered, few anatomists would now agree that the dens is purely and simply the body of the atlas. Details of ossification are excluded and lymphatic drainage of the limbs gets no mention at all. The review chapters and questions are a good idea

and naturally the depth of question varies considerably. However, I found it difficult to imagine anyone reading this book who would benefit from being asked to name the two bones of the forearm or leg.

This book is clearly written and targeted broadly at any student or practitioner interested in anatomy. However, the errors and omissions mean that I cannot recommend it to undergraduate medical students.

MICHAEL BENJAMIN

Endocrine and Biochemical Development of the Fetus and Neonate. Edited by J. M. CUEZVA, A. M. PASCUAL-LEONE and M. S. PATEL (Pp. 316; $90 outside USA.) London: Plenum Press. 1990.

This volume is a collection of contributions presented at the annual meeting of the Perinatal Biochemical Group of the Spanish Biochemical Society held in Madrid in 1989. Three main themes loosely connect the 33 papers comprising the book. These themes are Endocrine and Functional Aspects of Development, Molecular and Functional Aspects of Mitochondrial Development, and Metabolic Aspects of Development, the 2 largest sections being the 1st and the 3rd topics. There are several very interesting contributions, for example, The Use of Primary Culture of Astrocytes to Study Glial Development, Effect of Ethanol by Guerri, Sancho-Tello, Zaragoza and Renau-Piquera. Other examples are the paper by Slotkin, Kudlacz, Hou and Seidler on the Maturation of the Sympathetic Nervous System and that by Camps, Palacin, Testar and Zorzano on Insulin Receptor Binding Activity in Skeletal Muscle during pregnancy. There are many more that would be worthy of mention.

Plenum Press has produced a very attractive book in a manageable size for the reader. The pages are well laid-out and all the graphs and photographs are clear and easy to read. The editors have presented the conference proceedings in a clear format which is a pleasure to read. My only minor criticism is they have not provided an analysis or summary of the 3 major topics or subtitles of the book. Their views and comments would have been welcomed. This is particularly true as we are told in the Preface of the interesting and lively discussions which ensued from these contributions at the conference.

This volume will be a useful addition to libraries and scientists in the field of developmental and reproductive biology.

MARJORIE A. ENGLAND

Towards a New Pharmacotherapy of Pain (*Dahlem Workshop Report No. 49*). Edited by A. I. BASBAUM and J.-M. BESSON. (Pp. xiii + 457; illustrated; £65.) Chichester and New York: John Wiley. 1991.

This is the report of a Dahlem Workshop held in Berlin in November 1989. Like most of the series, it is excellent, largely because of the careful choice of contributors, who provide such good synthetic reviews. Anatomists will be particularly interested in the chapters dealing with nociceptive pathways and their transmitters. These, together with some reviews of physiology and experimental pathophysiology, set the background ('to better understand nociceptive mechanisms', according to the stated goal of the workshop) for the more speculative pharmacological chapters which 'explore new strategies for the design of analgesic drugs which will supplant or enhance the use of morphine').

Handwerker's excellent review of primary afferents and inflammation, and the account of events in the spinal dorsal horn by Duggan and Weihe, must be singled out for commendation, as must the chapters on the sympathetic system by Dembowsky and by Jänig and Koltzenburg. All these contributions not only assemble facts from a vast literature, but also make novel interpretations which are well worth reading.

Some of the group discussions are disappointing, despite the eminence of the panellists. Perhaps this is because they set out 'to achieve a consensus': putting in those anodyne platitudes on which they agree, and leaving out those interesting points on which they disagree – and on which it would be so interesting to know *why* they disagree. Group discussions also often leave out those important clinical observations of which the nonclinical scientists have no experience or those scientific data which should be drawn to the attention of clinicians who are not also scientists (i.e.